THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Recently a news item appeared in the 'Indian Express' New Delhi Edition dated 27-6-96 under the caption 'Agarias take disease, exploitation with a pinch of salt' mentioning about the prevalence of various diseases amongst the agarias families due to unhygienic living conditions and malnutrition, occupational hazards, non availability of adequate medical facilities, staggering infant mortality rate/high birth rate in Agarias families in comparision to the national average, non-availability of adequate potable water coupled with low wages etc.

(c) No, Sir. The salt manufacturing activity does not involve any risk to human life.

(d) to (f) The Government has been implementing various developmental and labour welfare schemes, such as construction of hospitals, medical aid centres/ dispensaries, strengthening of public health centres, purchase of ambulances and creating facilities for providing drinking water, construction of houses, labour rest shed, hostels, creches, toilets, community centres, educational facilities and cash awards to the children of salt workers, etc. by providing financial assistance from salt cess proceeds in addition to the facilities provided by the State Government.

Export of Wheat

*75. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state;

(a) whether significant growth of grains is expected during 1996-97 in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a situation will enhance the credibility of country as exporter in the International Export Market;

(d) whether any export of wheat has been committed during 1996-97 especially to neighbouring countries like China and Pakistan;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether record growth of wheat in the country will bring down the prices of wheat at retail level; and

(g) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) It is too early to estimate the expected growth in the production of foodgrains in the Crop Year July, 1996 to June, 1997.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) In view of reply to part (a) and (b) above, question does not arise.

Action on the Recommendations of Gian Prakash Committee

*76. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary had examined the administrative remedial measures recommended by Shri Gian Prakash in Sugar Scam and submitted its reports;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Gian Prakash Committee Report and the action taken in pursuance thereof is at present subjudice in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 622 of 1995 pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.